

Radon: What You Need to Know

What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas formed by the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water. It can enter homes through cracks in foundations, walls, or floors, as well as through well water. Radon is a “Class A Carcinogen,” meaning it is a proven cancer-causing agent with no safe exposure level. Breathing in radon particles increases the risk of lung cancer, especially when particles attach to dust and are inhaled into the lungs.

- **Key Fact:** Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, following smoking, and is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.
- **Local Data:** In Wisconsin, 1 in 10 homes have high radon levels (≥ 4 pCi/L).

Why Test for Radon?

Testing for radon is essential for ensuring your family’s safety and peace of mind. Detecting high levels early can save lives and increase your home’s value.

How Does Radon Enter Homes?

Radon moves up through the ground and into homes via:

- Cracks in foundations, floors, and walls.
- Construction joints.
- Gaps around service pipes.
- Well water (in some cases).

How to Test for Radon

Radon testing is the only way to know your home’s radon levels. Testing options include:

- **Short-term tests (2–90 days):** Provide quick results but represent a snapshot.
- **Long-term tests (>90 days):** Offer a more accurate, year-round average.

Types of Test Kits:

- **Passive devices:** Charcoal canisters and alpha-track detectors are affordable and require no power.
- **Active devices:** Continuous radon monitors provide hourly readings but are more expensive.

Resources for Test Kits:

- Call: 1-888-569-7236
- Visit: www.lowradon.org

Interpreting Test Results

Radon levels are measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). The EPA recommends taking action if radon levels are 4 pCi/L or higher. Even levels between 2-4 pCi/L pose some risk and should be considered for mitigation.

Little Bear Development Center
N7332 Water Circle Place
Oneida, WI 54155

Tsyunhehkwá Farm
N139 Riverdale Drive
Oneida, WI 54155

Land & Conservation Office
470 Airport Drive
Oneida, WI 54155

Cannery
N7210 Seminary Rd
Oneida, WI 54155

Oneida Nation Farm
N6010 Cty Rd C
Seymour, WI 54165

What to Do If Your Home Has High Radon Levels

Radon Mitigation Techniques

If radon levels exceed 4 pCi/L, hire a certified radon mitigation contractor to reduce levels.

Common Mitigation Techniques:

1. **Subslab depressurization:** A vent fan system draws radon from beneath the home and vents it outside.
2. **Sealing foundation cracks:** Prevents radon entry.
3. **Improving ventilation:** Enhances airflow in lower floors.

Selecting a Radon Contractor

Find a Contractor

There are **57 certified radon testing professionals** and **68 mitigation specialists** in the Green Bay area. Visit [NRPP](#) or [NRSB](#) for a list of certified contractors.

Tips for Hiring a Contractor:

- Ensure they are certified by the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) or the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB).
- Request diagnostic tests, written estimates, and proof of credentials.
- Confirm post-mitigation testing and warranties.

Additional Information

Steps to Maintain a Radon-Resistant Home

- Regularly inspect and maintain your radon mitigation system.
- Perform follow-up radon tests every 2-5 years or after major renovations.
- Keep records of radon test results and mitigation system maintenance.

Additional Resources

- **EPA Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction:** [Guide](#).
- **General Information:**
 - **Call:** 1-888-569-7236
 - **Visit:** www.lowradon.org
- **Tribal-Specific Contacts:** Contact your local environmental office for assistance.

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